

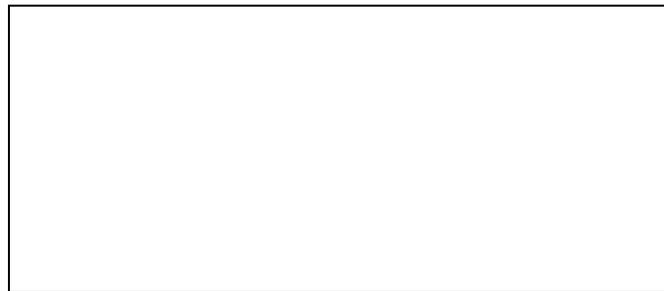


UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OECA MC 2225A
WASHINGTON DC 20460

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**Mailroom: Response Required for Each Permit.
Please Forward to Responsible Office.**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NPDES PERMITTEES
DMR-QA Study 26 Announcement
RESPONSE REQUIRED BY MAY 26, 2006**

DMR-QA STUDY 26

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DESIGNATED NPDES PERMITTEES

To verify that you have received Study 26, IMMEDIATELY e-mail your verification to dmrqa@epa.gov or mail this form to:

JOHN HELM
USEPA OECA MC 2225A
1200 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

A Separate Response is Required for Each NPDES Permit

NPDES PERMITTEE ADDRESS VERIFICATION FORM (AVF) Discharge Monitoring Report – Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 26

Attention NPDES Permittee:

If you have Internet access, you are asked to respond via e-mail to dmrqa@epa.gov by 5/26/2006 (see instructions on page 1). Please blind copy or cc your State or Regional Coordinator.

Please provide corrections to the mailing address where all DMR-QA paperwork should be sent:

NPDES Permit Number:

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

(2-character State Code + 7 digit Permit Code as shown on the mailing label, for example CA1234567)

Company Name _____

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-Mail Address _____



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

APR 27 2006

Dear NPDES Permit Holder:

This letter announces the 2006 Discharge Monitoring Report – Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 26. Your participation in DMR-QA plays a key role in monitoring the quality of data used to ensure the safety of the nation's waters. This letter initiates chemistry, Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) and microbiology testing for Study 26. This is the first DMR-QA Study to include microbiology testing. The study schedule requires that all actions under Study 26 be completed by the end of calendar year 2006. Refer to the enclosed "NPDES Permittee Instructions" (pages 4-6) for details on what you, as the permit holder, must do to complete this study. Again this year, test samples must be obtained from accredited commercial providers.

Who must participate?

DMR-QA is mandatory for major and selected minor permit holders under the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The DMR-QA study is designed to evaluate the entire process you use to routinely report results in your Discharge Monitoring Reports. Therefore, the study addresses the analytic ability of the laboratories that perform the chemical, microbiological, and WET analyses required in your NPDES permits and your ability to properly report these results in your Discharge Monitoring Reports. As the permit holder, you are responsible for obtaining un-graded results of DMR-QA tests performed by your in-house or contract laboratories and submitting the results to the appropriate (federal or state) NPDES regulatory authority and the Proficiency Testing (PT) Provider that supplied the samples to each of your laboratories. After the PT Provider has graded the results and provided them to you, if any of your Provider graded results are returned as "Not Acceptable", you are responsible for submitting a Corrective Action Report to your NPDES regulatory authority.

What do I need to have tested and reported?

For the chemical and microbiological tests under DMR-QA, you are responsible only for those analytes that are both in your permit and included in Study 26. The chemical and microbiological analytes in Study 26 are listed in the "Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte Checklist" (page 8-9). Note that microbiology testing for Study 26 includes fecal and total

coliforms by membrane filter or by multiple tubes. You are required to participate if the analyte is in the permit.

For the WET tests under DMR-QA, you are responsible only for test organisms that are both in your permit and included in Study 26. You are required to participate even if the test conditions (e.g., time of acute test, renewal/non-renewal, synthetic seawater matrix, etc.) in your permit do not exactly match those in Study 26. If they do not exactly match, refer to "WET Testing Laboratory Instructions" (page 10-11).

Where do laboratories get test samples?

Laboratories (in-house and contract, chemistry, microbiology, and WET) must order required DMR-QA 26 study samples by June 2, 2006, from an accredited proficiency test provider that is appropriately accredited by the National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NIST NVLAP)¹. A list of chemistry, microbiology and WET accredited proficiency test providers is listed in the Accredited Providers table (page 14). The Providers supply the PT samples and instructions, and evaluate the results reported to them by the testing facilities. Providers are also responsible for receiving the complete DMR-QA Data Package for each of your permits, preparing an evaluation report for each Data Package, and sending these evaluation reports back to you and your state or EPA regional DMR-QA Coordinator. If you will be using the Water Pollution (WP) test to satisfy some or all of your DMR-QA requirements for Study 26, EPA will accept only those WP results for WP studies ending after June 1, and before September 1, 2006.

How do I report receipt of this notice?

All permit holders with e-mail capabilities are encouraged to submit their verification forms by e-mail by following the instructions in the enclosure. Of course, you may continue to send the "NPDES Permittee Address Verification Form" by regular mail, if you wish.

Further information

Additional copies of the Study 26 announcement package are available at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/monitoring/programs/cwa/dmr/index.html>. For any additional questions, contact your state or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional DMR-QA Coordinator whose name, address, and phone number are listed in the enclosure. Reference your NPDES permit and telephone number on all correspondence. The Coordinators play an important role in reviewing test results and providing needed follow-up or guidance. Questions or comments on the national program can be addressed to Dr. John Helm, DMR-QA Coordinator, at e-mail address: dmrqa@epa.gov, or by mail at the address listed in the State and Regional Coordinators list.

¹ For your information, at this time, all National Environmental Laboratory Accreditor Conference (NELAC) accredited PT Providers are also NIST accredited.

Thank you in advance for cooperating in this national program to assure the quality of NPDES self-reporting data.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael M. Stahl, Director
Office of Compliance

Enclosure: Discharge Monitoring Report-Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 26 NPDES Permittee Instructions (chemistry, microbiology, and WET)

Instructions for Verifying Receipt of this Package DMR-QA Study 26

A separate response is required for each NPDES permit number.

All Permittees must respond to this notice to confirm their receipt of Study 26. **All Permittees who have Internet access are asked to respond via e-mail to dmrqa@epa.gov by 5/26/2006.** If you do not have Internet access, please mail the Address Verification Form (AVF) located at the front of this package. The mailed form should be postmarked on or before 5/26/2006.

To respond via e-mail, please follow these instructions carefully:

1. Each e-mail response must have a single NPDES permit number listed in the e-mail subject line in the following format:

_____ (e.g., CA1234567)
State abbrev. 7-digit permit number

2. In the body of the e-mail, include the following information in the format presented:

<Permit Number>
<Company Name>
<Contact Name>
<Mailing Address>
<City>
<State>
<Zip Code>

| Sample e-mail response: |
|--|
| From: your e-mail@company.com |
| To: dmrqa@epa.gov |
| Subject: CA1234567 C (← indicates correction) |
| CA1234567 Company A John Doe 123 Main Street Anywhere CA 12345 |
| Note: Please send a separate e-mail for each permit. |

3. If any of the above information is a correction to the Study 26 mailing label, please put a "C" in the e-mail subject line after your permit number.
4. Please do not include any other correspondence in this confirmation e-mail. Additional comments or questions may be sent as separate e-mails to the same address.

Note: To respond via regular mail please use the Address Verification Form included at the front of this package.

Check List and Schedule for DMR-QA Study 26

| Deadline/Last Date | Permittee/In House Labs | Contract Labs | PT Providers |
|--|---|---|---|
| May 26, 2006 | <input type="checkbox"/> Respond to the EPA by e-mail or postal mail AVF (page 1) to confirm receipt of Notice Study 26 | | |
| June 2, 2006 To August 25, 2006 | <input type="checkbox"/> Order test samples completed <input type="checkbox"/> Study 26 begins <input type="checkbox"/> Completed Provider's Data Report Form and NPDES Permittee Data Report Form <input type="checkbox"/> Send the data package (Provider's Data Report Form and NPDES Permittee Data Report Form) to each PT Provider used. <input type="checkbox"/> Make 2 copies of the Data Package | <input type="checkbox"/> Order test samples completed <input type="checkbox"/> Study 26 begins <input type="checkbox"/> Completed and sent Data Report to PT Providers and Permittees | |
| September 1, 2006 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mail/e-mail a signed copy of the <i>ungraded</i> Data Package to Providers <input type="checkbox"/> Send the original Data Package to State Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/> Keep 1 copy | | |
| October 27, 2006 | | | Send Provider-graded test results, for each individual permit, to the: <input type="checkbox"/> Permittee <input type="checkbox"/> State and Regional NPDES Permit Regulatory Authorities |
| December 8, 2006 | <input type="checkbox"/> Negotiate any "Not Acceptable" data for corrective action with State/Regional Permit Regulatory Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Submit a completed and signed Corrective Action Report to your DMR-QA Coordinator | | |

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NPDES Permittee Instructions DMR-QA Study 26

1. **Submit response for receipt of this package to USEPA.** Your response is required to ensure the package was properly received and recognized, and to verify that your mailing information is correct. You must submit your response no later than May 26, 2006. Follow the instructions inside the front cover or on page 1.
2. **DMR-QA samples must be analyzed by the same individuals and or laboratories that routinely perform the analysis for reporting on your Discharge Monitoring Report.**

Chemistry and Microbiology Portion

If you routinely perform any analyses at your facility (in-house laboratory), such as pH, TRC, fecal/total coliforms, etc., those tests are required to be conducted on-site. If more than one laboratory performs the Chemical or Microbiological analyses for your permit, each lab must perform the analysis of the analytes it normally performs for DMR-QA Study 26.

WET Portion

WET QA testing is required if your permit requires WET testing during 2006 on the test organisms included in this study. If you routinely perform WET testing at your facility (in-house laboratory), those tests are required to be conducted on-site. If more than one laboratory performs toxicity testing for your permit, the laboratory performing the majority of each test must analyze samples for DMR-QA Study 26.

3. **Send the Study 26 instructions from this package to each of your in-house and contract laboratories.** Inform each in-house or contracted support laboratory that routinely produces DMR data for your NPDES permit, which tests they must conduct and report to you. Send copies of the appropriate instructions as follows:

Chemistry and Microbiology Portion

- a) "Chemistry and Microbiology Laboratory Instructions" and "Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte Checklist" (pages 7-9)
- b) "NIST NVLAP/NELAC Designated PTOB Accredited PT Providers" table (page 14)

Wet Portion

- a) "WET Testing Laboratory Instructions" and "WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points Checklist" (pages 10-13)
- b) "NIST NVLAP/NELAC Designated PTOB Accredited PT Providers" table (page 14)

Helpful Hint: If you have more than one laboratory analyzing DMR-QA Study 26 samples, direct all of the labs to order their samples from the same Provider, if possible. Remember that you must have the results evaluated by the Provider that manufactured the samples for each test, so a common source for all samples would clearly be advantageous to you.

4. **Make certain your in-house and/or contract laboratories understand and complete all requirements.** Each laboratory must use the USEPA-assigned Laboratory Code on all reported results. If you are not sure of your USEPA Lab code, check your previous DMR-QA reports. If you need a new Lab code or need to check on your old Lab code call, fax, or write:

Mr. Charles Feldmann
US EPA, M/S 140
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268
Tel: (513) 569-7671
Fax: (513) 569-7191

Please submit requests at least one week before the study due date to allow time for response.

5. **Order samples as required by your permit.** Your in-house and contract laboratories must order PT samples from the Providers by June 2, 2006.

Your in-house or contract lab may want to use your DMR-QA Study results as one of their Proficiency Testing (PT) rounds for state certification. To do so, contact your State Coordinator to determine if they will accept the results from a standard DMR-QA Study for your PT round. Some states will not accept the standard DMR-QA results. If this is the case, you can elect to use an approved Water Pollution (WP) Study for generating results for DMR-QA Study 26. WP studies are only valid for DMR-QA Study 26 if the study meets the following requirements:

- a) A study cannot close before June 2 or after September 1, 2006.
- b) Samples are offered by a NIST or NELAC designated PTPA accredited Provider.

If your in-house or contract laboratory chooses to use a WP study, please make them aware that they must report all data to the Provider by their published WP Study close date even if it is prior to the DMR-QA deadline of September 1, 2006. (Notify the Provider that WP is being used for DMR-QA and provide the NPDES permit number. **You may not extend** a Provider's WP Study close date to September 1, 2006 to match the DMR-QA deadline.

In your DMR-QA report, **ONLY REPORT RESULTS FOR THOSE ANALYTES COVERED BY YOUR NPDES PERMIT.** Note, additional analytes have been added to DMR-QA Study 26 to better reflect the parameters that are currently found on NPDES permits nationally.

6. **Instruct labs to perform analyses within the deadlines defined by the Provider.**
7. **Have your in-house and contract laboratories transmit their results to both you and their PT Provider using the provider's paper or electronic systems.**

***Helpful Hint:* Set a date by which test result data must be mailed or electronically transmitted to you by your contract lab(s) that will allow you enough time to**

complete the Final Data Packages and submit them to your PT Provider by September 1, 2006.

- 8. Complete the information in this study package located on the pages entitled "NPDES PERMITTEE DATA REPORT FORM" or the Provider supplied forms for DMR-QA Study 26.**
- 9. Make copies of the four-page "NPDES PERMITTEE DATA REPORT FORM" or the Provider supplied forms and attach a copy to the data report forms from each of your laboratories for the PT samples from each PT Provider. Include the "Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte and WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points" checklists from your in-house and each of your contract laboratories (pages 8-9 and 12-13). Make sure that your NPDES permit number as well as the laboratory's USEPA Lab code is on each data report form. This creates a Permittee Data Package that is ready for submission to each Provider you or your lab(s) used.**
- 10. Your data packages need to be assembled and reported to your State/Regional Coordinator and PT Provider using the same paper or electronic procedure you used for your routine Discharge Monitoring Reports.**
- 11. By September 1, 2006, mail or electronically submit Permittee Data Packages to the Provider that produced the PT samples you and your contract lab(s) used. Send a signed original Permittee Data Package for each of your permits to your State or Regional DMR-QA Coordinator and include the completed and signed "Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte and WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points" checklists for DMR-QA Study 26 (pages 8-9 and 12-13).**
- 12. By October 27, 2006, Provider graded test results will be sent, by the Providers, to the Permittees and the State/Regional Coordinators. Review these results for completeness and accuracy.**
- 13. By November 17, 2006, each PT Provider must send their DMR-QA Study 26 and applicable WP study discussion reports, and an electronic file with all Permittee results and evaluations, to EPA (Dr. John Helm) and to the State/Regional Coordinators.**
- 14. Investigate any discrepancies or "Not Acceptable" evaluations reported by your Provider. You must identify and report the causes and your system changes to correct the discrepancies and avoid their reoccurrence. This report must be sent to your primary regulatory authority and DMR-QA Coordinator by December 8, 2006. Submit the report so the delivery and receipt of the report can be tracked.**
- 15. Maintain a copy of all completed forms for your records for at least three years.**

Chemistry and Microbiology Laboratory Instructions DMR-QA Study 26

Your laboratory has been designated to participate as a contract laboratory in DMR-QA Study 26 by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permittee. The Permittee is required to report sample data produced by laboratories that routinely perform specified chemistry and microbiology analyses for their DMR purposes.

1. **Each of the Permittees, for whom you provide DMR data to during the year, will determine which analyses you are to perform by checking the appropriate boxes on the enclosed checklist (pages 8-9).**
2. **Order DMR-QA Study 26 samples by June 2, 2006.** To acquire the DMR-QA Study 26 chemistry and microbiology samples, arrange to purchase them from one of the NIST NVLAP and NELAC designated PTPA accredited Providers listed on page 14.
3. **Record your analytical data and EPA Lab code on the Data Reporting Forms received with your samples or the Provider's electronic data system.** Be sure to follow the Provider's instructions and deadlines received with these samples.
4. **Send each Permittee the data they requested.** Provide each of your Permittees the data they requested using the original or a copy of the Provider's Data Reporting Forms. Make sure you provide the DMR-QA Study 26 or Water Pollution (WP) study results to your Permittees allowing sufficient time for the Permittees to assemble their data packages and transmit them to the appropriate PT Provider and State/Regional Coordinator by September 1, 2006.

Helpful Hint: If you must participate in a WP study for the same analytes to qualify for state wastewater laboratory certification, you may be able to report the same analytical results for both:

- a) The requesting Permittees to satisfy your DMR-QA obligations
- b) The Provider that supplied the DMR-QA Study 26 chemistry samples for WP evaluation if the study was not completed prior to June 1, 2006 and the performance period ends before September 1, 2006.

Note: Check with your State Wastewater Certification Office and the Provider to verify that such a plan is acceptable to them.

5. **Maintain a copy of all completed order forms for your records.**

Permittee: _____

Permit Number: _____

Chemistry/Microbiology Analyte Checklist DMR-QA Study 26

| NPDES Testing Required | PT Samples Ordered | Analyte Test | Test Completed/Reported | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | On-Site Lab | Contract Lab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Microbiology | | |
| | | Fecal Coliform, MF or MPN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Total Coliform, MF or MPN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Trace Metals | | |
| | | Aluminum | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Antimony | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Arsenic | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Barium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Beryllium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Cadmium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Chromium, total | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Chromium, hexavalent | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Cobalt | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Copper | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Iron | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Lead | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Manganese | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Mercury | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Molybdenum | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Nickel | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Selenium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Silver | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Thallium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vanadium | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Zinc | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Demands | | |
| | | 5-day BOD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 5-day Carbonaceous BOD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | COD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | TOC | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Minerals | | |
| | | Alkalinity, total (CaCO ₃) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Chloride | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Fluoride | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Hardness, total (CaCO ₃) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Specific conductance (25°C) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Sulfate | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Total Dissolved Solids (180°C) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | Nutrients | | |
| | | Ammonia as N | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Nitrate as N | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Nitrite as N | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Orthophosphate as P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | Total Kjeldahl-Nitrogen as N | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Total Phosphorus as P | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Permittee: _____

Permit Number: _____

| NPDES Testing Required | PT Samples Ordered | Analyte Test | Test Completed/Reported | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | On-Site Lab | Contract Lab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Misc. Analytes | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-Filterable Residue (TSS) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Oil and Grease | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | pH | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Total Cyanide | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Total Phenolics (4-AAP) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Total Residual Chlorine | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Settleable Solids | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turbidity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Print Name

Signature/Title

Date

Permittee: Provide a copy of this checklist to your in-house and contract laboratories with the analytes that you want them to test for during Study 26 selected. This checklist must be included with the final Data Package that you are required to send to your DMR-QA Coordinator and PT Provider by September 1, 2006.

WET Testing laboratory Instructions DMR-QA Study 26

Your laboratory has been designated to participate as a contract laboratory in DMR-QA Study 26 by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permittee. The Permittee is required to report sample data produced by laboratories that routinely perform analyses for their DMR purposes. DMR-QA is designed to test the ability of a testing facility to conduct the required testing procedures included in NPDES permits and to follow the directions associated with required test methods. WET testing is required if the Permittee is required to conduct WET testing under their NPDES permit during 2006.

1. **Determine the WET tests and designated methods for Study 26.** Select the test organism and testing conditions that most closely resemble the testing conditions required by the permit for which you are supplying test results or those selected by the Permittee. Use the guidelines immediately below and the table "WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points" (pages 12-13) to select the proper WET tests. The Permittee should indicate which tests are to be performed by checking the appropriate box in the table.

Guidelines for Choosing the Correct WET Test Organisms/Conditions/End Points

If your permit requires WET testing with Fathead minnows, *Ceriodaphnia dubia*, *Daphnia magna*, *Daphnia pulex*, *Mysidopsis bahia*, Inland silverside (*Menidia beryllina*) or Sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegates*), test those organisms listed in each permit using the test conditions, including temperature, defined in the Test Codes listed below.

If your permit's WET testing conditions for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* specify 48-h acute, **non-renewal** testing, conduct this test using the static, **renewal** acute conditions defined by Test Codes 17, 18, 19, and 20. The testing conditions defined for these Test Codes have been proven to provide an appropriate measure of your ability to perform WET testing with *Ceriodaphnia dubia*.

If your permit's WET testing conditions for *Daphnia magna* and *Daphnia pulex* specify 48-h acute **renewal** testing, you must conduct this test using the **non-renewal** conditions specified in Test Codes 32, 36, and 38 listed below.

If your permit's WET testing conditions require 24-, 48, or 96-h acute testing using any of the organisms included in Study 26, use the 48-h acute test conditions specified in the Test Codes listed below.

If your permit requires WET Testing with *Mysidopsis bahia*, Inland silverside (*Menidia beryllina*) or Sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegates*) and your laboratory uses an alternate synthetic seawater (e.g., Hawaiian Brands or GP2, etc.) other than the 40 Fathoms specified in the Test Codes listed below, your laboratory must still perform testing.

2. **Order DMR-QA Study 26 samples before June 2, 2006.** To acquire the DMR-QA Study 26 toxicity samples, arrange to purchase them from one of the Providers (see page 14) or as specified by the Permittee.
3. **Record test results and laboratory identification on the Data Report Form received with your samples.** Be sure to follow the Provider's instructions and deadlines received with the samples.

4. **Send each participating Permittee the data they requested.** Use the Provider's Data Report Form or a copy of it, allowing sufficient time for the Permittee to send the completed form back to the Provider by the published study close date.
5. **Maintain a copy of all completed order forms for your records.**

Permittee: _____

Permit Number: _____

WET Organisms/Test Conditions/End Points Checklist DMR-QA Study 26

The following table lists tests required for DMR-QA Study 26. Permittees should indicate which methods are required in their permit.

| Analyte Number | Organisms/Conditions | End Points | Test Req'd |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Test Code 11/EPA Method 2000 | | | |
| 752 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF 20°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 13/EPA Method 2000 | | | |
| 754 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF 25°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 14/EPA Method 2000 | | | |
| 755 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF 25°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 15/EPA Method 1000 | | | |
| 756 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF | NOEC SURVIVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 808 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF | IC25 GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 809 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF | IC25 (SN) ¹ GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 810 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF | NOEC (ON) ² GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 811 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - MHSF | NOEC (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 16/EPA Method 1000 | | | |
| 759 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW | NOEC SURVIVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 812 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW | IC25 GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 813 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW | IC25 (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 814 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW | NOEC (ON) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 815 | Fathead minnow (<i>Pimephales promelas</i>) - 20% DMW | NOEC (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 17/EPA Method 2002 | | | |
| 762 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 18/EPA Method 2002 | | | |
| 763 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 19/EPA Method 2002 | | | |
| 764 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF 25°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 20/EPA Method 2002 | | | |
| 765 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW 25°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 21/EPA Method 1002 | | | |
| 766 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF | NOEC SURVIVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 767 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF | IC 25 REPRODUCTION | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 768 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - MHSF | NOEC REPRODUCTION | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 22/EPA Method 1002 | | | |
| 769 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW | NOEC SURVIVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 770 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW | IC25 REPRODUCTION | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 771 | <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> - 20% DMW | NOEC REPRODUCTION | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 32/EPA Method 2021 | | | |
| 788 | <i>Daphnia magna</i> - MHSF 20°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 36/EPA Method 2021 | | | |
| 792 | <i>Daphnia pulex</i> - MHSF 20°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 38/EPA Method 2021 | | | |
| 794 | <i>Daphnia pulex</i> - MHSF 25°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Permittee: _____

Permit Number: _____

| Analyte Number | Organisms/Conditions | End Points | Test Req'd |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| Test Code 42/EPA Method 2007 | | | |
| 798 | Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) 20°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 43/EPA Method 1007 | | | |
| 799 | Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) | NOEC SURVIVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 816 | Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) | IC25 GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 817 | Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) | IC25 (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 818 | Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) | NOEC (ON) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 819 | Mysid (<i>Mysidopsis bahia</i>) | NOEC (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 44/EPA Method 2006 | | | |
| 803 | Inland silverside (<i>Menidia berylina</i>) 20°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 46/EPA Method 2004 | | | |
| 804 | Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) 20°C | LC50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Test Code 47/EPA Method 1004 | | | |
| 805 | Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) | NOEC SURVIVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 820 | Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) | IC25 GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 821 | Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) | IC25 (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 822 | Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) | NOEC (ON) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 823 | Sheepshead minnow (<i>Cyprinodon variegatus</i>) | NOEC (SN) GROWTH | <input type="checkbox"/> |

¹Survival Number

²Original Number

References Manuals for WET Tests (see www.epa.gov/waterscience/WET)

All tests must be conducted according to the standard methods published in the following EPA manuals. Please consult these manuals for proper test, culturing, and water preparation guidance.

1. Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents to Freshwater and Marine Organisms, EPA 600-4-90-027F.
2. Short-term Methods for Estimating for Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, Second Edition, EPA 600-4-89-001 or EPA 600-4-91-002.
3. Supplement to Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, Second Edition, EPA 600-4-89-001A.
4. Short-term Method for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Marine and Estuarine Organisms, EPA 600-4-87-028 or EPA 600-4-91-003.
5. October 2002. Method for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents to Freshwater and Marine Organisms, Fifth Edition, EPA 821-R-02-012.
6. October 2002. Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, Fourth Edition, EPA 821-R-02-013.
7. October 2002. Short-term Method for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Marine and Estuarine Organisms, Third Edition, EPA 821-R-02-014.

NIST NVLAP/NELAC DESIGNATED PTOB ACCREDITED PT PROVIDERS

Please contact individual laboratories to obtain samples and test schedule. Find the following NIST/NELAC Providers on the internet at:
<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/scopes/calchem.htm>.

| NIST NVLAP/NELAC-Accredited Provider | Chem | WET | Micro |
|---|------|-----|-------|
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| Wibby Environmental, Golden, CO [200615-0] Mr. Chuck Wibby (303) 940-0033, cwibby@wibby.com | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Absolute Standards, Inc., Hamden, CT [200390-0] Mr. Stephen Arpie (203) 281-2917 or (800) 368-1131, stephen@absolutestandards.com | ✓ | | |
| Remel, Lake Charles, LA [200388-0] Mrs. Theresa Billups (800) 256-4376 X203, tstokeld@remelinc.com | | | ✓ |
| NSI Solutions, Inc., Raleigh, NC [200440-0] Mr. Mark Hammersla (919) 957-9672 or (800) 234-7837, mark.hammersla@nsi-es.com | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Spex Certiprep Inc. & Protocol Analytical, LLC, Metuchen, NJ [200392-0] Dr. Vanaja Sivakumar (732) 549-7144 X418 or (800) 522-7739, x 418 vsivakumar@spexcsp.com | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| NYS DOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program, Albany, NY [200387-0] Dr. Kenneth Jackson (518) 485-5570, elap@health.state.ny.us | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Analytical Products Group, Inc., Belpre, OH [200384-0] Mr. Thomas Coyner (740) 423-4200 or (800) 272-4442, t.coyner@apgqa.com | ✓ | | |
| Microcheck, Inc., Northfield, VT [200391-0] Ms. Carrie Pontbriand (802) 485-6600 X26 or (866) 709-6600, carrie@microcheck.com | | | ✓ |
| Resource Technology Corporation (RTC), Laramie, WY [200393-0] Mr. Robert Rucinski (307) 742-5452 or (800) 576-5690, rrucinski@RT-Corp.com | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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| | Charles Wren, Jr. | EPA Region VI / Water Enforcement Branch (6EN-WC) | 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202 | (214) 665-6640 | wren.charles@epa.gov |
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State and Regional Coordinators are frequently changed.
Please consult <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/monitoring/programs/cwa/dmr/index.html> for the latest list of coordinators.

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NPDES PERMITTEE DATA REPORT FORM Form Approved. OMB No. 2080-0021 Approval Expires 5/31/2007

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|  | United States Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory DMR-QA Evaluation Study 26 Laboratory Performance Evaluation (These data are collected under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.) | EPA USE ONLY | NPDES Permit Number | Permit Extension | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|--|--------|---|
| Current Permittee Mailing Address | | |
| NPDES Permit Number: | Phone: | ATTENTION: Follow the checklist on next page for instructions on completing this form and submitting data for evaluation. |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Enter Permittee Name as it Should Appear in Report Heading: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 |

For DMR-QA Study 25, conducted in 2005, the Permittee:

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----|-----------------|-----|----|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| Received Samples: | YES | NO | Submitted Data: | YES | NO | Received a Report in Response: | YES | NO |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 50 | 51 | | 52 | 53 | | 54 | 55 |

Certification by Permit Holder or Authorized Representative
(as per 40 CFR Part 122.22 – see instructions.)

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. Each reported value was produced from a single analytical run using the analytical system that routinely performs these analyses to produce compliance monitoring data required under our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Neither I nor any of my subordinates compared our results with results from independent analyses conducted by us or any other laboratory before we reported our results to the USEPA. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

| | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| Name and Title of Certifying Official (Type or Print) | Signature | Date Signed |
| Address of Certifying Official (if different from Permittee address above) | | Telephone Number |



United States Environmental Protection Agency
DMR-QA Study 26
Laboratory Performance Evaluation

(These data are collected under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4.37 hours per respondent. The estimate is based on conduction of an average of eleven analyses per responding permittee (the most frequently reported analyses are chemical). The estimate includes time for reading instructions, preparation of the performance samples, analyses, gathering, and reporting of the information. Send comments regarding the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates, and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden, including through the use of automated collection techniques to Director, OPPE Regulatory Information Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20460; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attn.: Desk Officer for EPA. Include the EPA ICR number (EPA # 254.06) and the OMB number (2080-0021) in any correspondence.

Checklist for the NPDES Permittee Data Report Form

Enter your NPDES permit number at the top of pages 22 and 24, and where indicated on each laboratory data sheet you submit for evaluation. Also fill in other Permittee information on page 22.

You must fill in the 2-digit **permit extension** field at the top of page 22, if there is an extension for your permit code. If you have one, the extension will appear next to your permit code in the address box on page 22; for example: "NPDES Permittee MA0102551-01." If there is no extension, leave this field blank.

1. Identify each of your laboratories on pages 24 and 25, including their USEPA Lab code. (NOTE: The USEPA Lab code of the laboratory that produced the data must also appear next to each quantity reported on the data sheets.)
2. Make copies of these four cover pages. Then attach a copy of these pages to the data sheet received from each laboratory, to create a complete Permittee Data Package. Submit each of these Permittee Data Packages to the provider who supplied the samples which were analyzed. **You are responsible for submitting data** to the various providers to meet your DMR-QA Study 26 reporting requirements.
3. Sign and date the certification statement on page 22.
4. Only use these Permittee cover pages along with the data sheet supplied by each laboratory to report DMR-QA Study 26 data.

5. Submit the Permittee Data Packages to the providers **no later than September 1, 2006**.

6. Submit a copy of the data package to your state or Regional NPDES Regulatory Authority.



**United States Environmental Protection Agency
DMR-QA Study 26
Laboratory Performance Evaluation**

(These data are collected under the authority of Federal Water Pollution Control Act.)

NPDES Permit Number

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Identification of All CHEM, MICRO & TOX Laboratories who did Analyses for this Permit
Permit Number:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| <u>N</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |

| Name | Address | Lab Code assigned by USEPA | | | | | | | Lab Analysis – Put an ‘X’ in all that apply: | | Lab Type – choose one: | |
|------|---------|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|-----|---|------------------------|
| | | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Chem | Tox | F = Federal G = Local Gov. C=Commercial I = Industrial | S = State O = Other |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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United States Environmental Protection Agency
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Identification of All CHEM, MICRO & TOX Laboratories who did Analyses for this Permit
 (continued from previous page)

| Name | Address | Lab code assigned by USEPA | | | | | | | Lab Analysis – | | Lab Type – choose one: F = Federal S = State G = Local Gov. C=Commercial I = Industrial O = Other | | |
|------|---------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Put an ‘X’ in all that apply: | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Chem | Tox | | | | |
| | | <u>43</u> | <u>44</u> | <u>45</u> | <u>46</u> | <u>47</u> | <u>48</u> | <u>49</u> | <u>50</u> | <u>51</u> | | <u>52</u> | |
| | | <u>53</u> | <u>54</u> | <u>55</u> | <u>56</u> | <u>57</u> | <u>58</u> | <u>59</u> | <u>60</u> | <u>61</u> | | <u>62</u> | |
| | | <u>63</u> | <u>64</u> | <u>65</u> | <u>66</u> | <u>67</u> | <u>68</u> | <u>69</u> | <u>70</u> | <u>71</u> | | <u>72</u> | |

EPA-420 (Cin), Rev. 04-00. Previous editions are obsolete.

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Last Page of

DMR-QA

Study 26

Announcement